



New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund 2015 EOF Graduate Achievement Award Recipients

Each year the Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education invite campus programs to identify graduating EOF students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement during their college careers. Presented to EOF seniors who are expected to graduate at the end of the spring 2015 term or who graduated at the end of the summer or fall 2014 terms, the criteria for the specific award categories are as follows:

Distinguished Scholars: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.00 throughout their college career (**8** recipients);

Outstanding Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (**467** recipients);

Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (**438** recipients); and

Outstanding Achievement: each participating campus EOF program can nominate one senior who best exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Educational Opportunity Fund program. There is no grade point average requirement for this award and seniors can receive this award as well as an award in one of the other three categories (**48** recipients).

A grand total of **949** students have been nominated for a total of **961** awards. Twelve students are receiving two awards.

**Names listed reflect only nominees who have signed a release form, allowing NJHE/EOF to publish their information. Institutions may have nominated additional students not listed here but included in their count.*

Atlantic Cape Community College

***22 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Mary Okaikor Addo	Perla Estefania Castro	Emily Klein
Sarah Nicolle Aguirre	Ayah Elsayed	Michael McDevitt
Ankit Amin	Angela Gomez	Kiara Perez
Jancarlos Camacho	Katrina Grace	Farzana Siddiquei
Jessica Carlson	Nicholas Kershaw	Jennifer Smith

Academic Achievement Award

Jane G. Arab	John Golda	Chelsea Lucas
Ciara Boyle	Tusheeway A. Henderson	
Camillo Giulietti	Felicia Nicole Ingram	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mary Okaikor Addo

Mary Okaikor Addo came to America from Ghana in January 1996. After facing many personal challenges, she decided to take positive steps towards improving the quality of life for herself and her son. In June 2011 she earned her GED and enrolled at Atlantic Cape Community College. While at Atlantic Cape, she made the President's List and was on the Dean's List for five semesters. Mary's major is liberal arts, child development/child care and she will complete the requirements for the Associate of Arts degree in May 2015. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon, as well as an active member of the Black Student Alliance (BSA) and the Art Club.

Bergen Community College

***20 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Natasha Pineiros

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Kathusca Chavez	Shasha Miguez	Marsha Tulloch
Mario Cuevas	Mildred Otchere	Melanie Verdigi
Bayan Hamza	Merlin Reji	Nora Zaki
Francine Heisler	Elisabet Saharig	
Katerine Ibrahimian	Shanique Strachan	

Academic Achievement Award

Jacqueline Corea
Stefanie Hernandez
Lisa Lakomy

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nora Zaki

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nora Zaki

Nora Zaki was born in Brooklyn, New York to an Egyptian father and a Lebanese mother. At the age of 5, her parents decided to move overseas so she could experience her middle-eastern roots. In the course of 9 years, she moved to two different countries and went to three different schools. In the summer of 2006, she returned to the United States with her mother from her home in Lebanon for a planned three weeks' vacation that turned into a long term residency when two days after her departure war started in Lebanon on July 12th. With no other options available, Nora and her mother stayed in the United States and began a new life all over again.

After graduating from high school in the United States, her mother decided to move the family back to Lebanon. The family stayed in Lebanon for 8 months and came back to America again because she couldn't afford the cost of college in Lebanon. Nora and her mother overcame several challenges upon her return including homelessness and unemployment, but she was determined to exceed and excel in college.

After completing her first semester at Bergen Community College in the fall of 2012, she was on the honor roll and the Dean's List and continued to retain that distinction throughout her subsequent semesters of enrollment. Nora is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Chi Eta, and Chi Alpha Epsilon and will graduate with a 3.8 GPA. She will earn her Associate in Science degree with a Broadcasting option and plans to apply to Montclair State University and William Paterson University to complete a bachelor's degree in communication and media arts.

Bloomfield College

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Nyka Harris

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sydney Williams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sydney Williams

Sydney Williams is a graduating senior from Trenton, New Jersey. She started her quest in higher education at Bloomfield College's Summer Institute in 2011. Since her arrival, Sydney has been an exemplary student that epitomizes the spirit of the EOF Program at Bloomfield. In 2012, Sydney served as President of the first Alliance of Educational Opportunity Fund Students of New Jersey (AESNJ) Chapter at Bloomfield College. She also took on the role of EOF

Ambassador for the state-wide AESNJ organization. In 2014, Miss Williams moved on to improve the institution as a whole by serving as the Vice President of Organizational Affairs, for the Bloomfield College Student Government Association.

While Sydney has made an incredible impact at college, she also gives back to her community by serving as a mentor for the Mercer County Community College Project SMILE/Gear Up program in Trenton, New Jersey. Sydney's family and friends are confident that this trendsetter is destined to make changes for the betterment of Trenton in the future. Sydney will earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in May 2015. After graduation she plans to continue her education by obtaining a Master's Degree in Social Work and to help disenfranchised youth from her hometown.

Brookdale Community College

***32 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Muhammad Yousaf

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Tenaya Hughes-King

Xinjin Ye

Xinying Ye

Academic Achievement Award

Julie-Anne Aminzia

Rebecca Buhse

Lisa Conner

Martina Hanna

Anthony Holiday

Michelle Posada

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Muhammad Yousaf

Muhammad Yousaf graduated from Khanewal Public School in Pakistan before migrating to the United States of America. Mr. Yousaf began his post-secondary degree studies at Brookdale Community College during the summer term of 2013. He has achieved a 4.0 GPA and made the Dean's list every semester in attendance.

Mr. Yousaf is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He will graduate in May 2015 with an Associate of Science degree in General Science. After graduating he plans to transfer to either Monmouth University or Rutgers University to continue his studies with a major in biology. Ultimately, Mr. Yousaf desires to become a medical doctor practicing internal medicine.

Burlington County College

*8 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Stacey Zenszer

Academic Achievement Award

Montel Page

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ralph Dayougar

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Stacey Zenszer

Stacey Zenszer believes she was very fortunate to have received an excellent education at Burlington County College (BCC), where she completed an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts in fall of 2014, with a 3.85 GPA. The completion of her degree was a huge accomplishment because she was diagnosed with an auditory processing disorder, which makes it difficult for her to quickly process information given orally, especially in classroom settings. In addition, she has trouble summarizing, concentrating, memorizing, thinking critically, and working quickly, such as on tests and assignments, especially when they are timed. Therefore, it was a great feeling for her to complete her Associate's degree.

While at BCC she was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and named to the Dean's list every semester. In addition to maintaining good grades, she also served as a Student Ambassador. Being a Student Ambassador was an amazing experience for Stacey because she found it easy to promote a school she loved!

After graduating BCC, she transferred to Rowan University as an advertising major. Stacey stated "I am about a month into the semester and have already learned so much." After receiving her Bachelor's degree, she plans to seek a career that will allow her to directly communicate with people, express her creativity, and participate in something new every day.

In addition to her hard work getting her through BCC, the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program also played a huge role in her success. Stacey expressed her gratitude to the staff of BCC's EOF program who played a significant role in her success and for the EOF financial support that helped her pay for her education at BCC.

Caldwell University

***3 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Karina Gonzalez

Sandra Guevara

Outstanding Achievement

Stephon Davis

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Stephon Davis

Stephon Davis is a resident of Newark, New Jersey. He will be receiving a bachelor's in Criminal Justice and Sociology. Stephon worked hard throughout his four years at Caldwell University by taking on numerous leadership roles and extracurricular activities. Upon graduation he will be attending a graduate program; while working with juveniles either in a correctional setting or a social work environment. Stephon truly believes that EOF is all about having "Extraordinary Faith" and making something flourish from minimal supplies. Stephon is and always will be an amazing example of what it means to be an Educational Opportunity Fund student.

Camden County College

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Amele Amewou-Attisso

Dionne Batts

Stephanie Klingler

Ildefonso Muniz-Morales

Academic Achievement

Amanda Bessing

Jessica Bonsu

Gloria Rivera

Pilar Ruiz-Melchor

Gabriella Scafidi

Yingyi Sun

Outstanding Achievement

Porcha Baylor

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Porcha Baylor

Porcha Baylor is a single mother of two sons, 28 and 25 years old, and a grandmother of one four year boy old. After being out of school for 26 years, working meaningless jobs, sometimes two at a time, seven days a week just to make sure that her sons had everything they needed; she decided to enroll in college to better herself as an individual and to enhance her career. She knew

it was time for a change and had to earn a degree to do what would make her happy, helping others. Porcha believed social work would be the best fit and to start the process of change her first step was to enroll in Camden County College.

While attending Camden County College, she proudly participated in several activities such as; member of committees for Hispanic Heritage and Black History months, Student Government Executive Campus Officer, nominee for the Alpha Mu Gamma National Collegiate Foreign Language Honor Society, and an honorary member of the Criminal Justice Society.

Outside of school, Porcha is a volunteer Sexual Violence Advocate for the Center for Family Services, an avid volunteer for the American Cancer Society, as well as a member of the American rare blood donor program. Porcha will graduate with an Associate in Science degree in Human Services. Her future goal is to obtain an MSW and start a program to help the less fortunate, starting first and foremost in her community of Camden, New Jersey.

She expressed her thanks for the opportunity to further her career with the assistance of the Educational Opportunity Fund Program.

Centenary College

***2 award recipients in total**

The College of New Jersey

***36 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Zindy Arias
Ashleigh Ayres
Rhina Brito
Rubina Chauhan

Natalie Gavilanes
Linda Gu
Michelle Guarnizo
April Jenkins

John Nally
Ashley Natera
Damian Robles-Garcia
Chelsea Sandmeyer

Academic Achievement

Luis Aguilar
Angelika Arias
Andreia Bulhao
Roberto Cardoso
Guiselly Erazo
Kevin Ewere
Dickson Gan
Ebony Garcia

Laura Garcia
Daniel Gill
Drew Grapstul
Zachary Krogstad
Magali Martinez
Manuel Martinez
Jasmin Matthews
Nkechi Oparaocha

Josie Perez
Josue Reyes
Susan Reyna
Emmanuel Sanchez
Jessica Severino
Henry Trujillo-Luna
Gabriela Zapata

Outstanding Achievement

Charles Gunningham

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Charles Gunningham

Charles (CJ) Gunningham, an Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) student at The College of New Jersey, will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in marketing in May of 2015. Charles attributes much of his academic, personal, and professional success to his involvement in co-curricular activities focused on community service, in addition to the support of the EOF program at The College of New Jersey. Despite multiple obstacles, Charles was able to maintain a strong academic standing while completing his degree in four years.

Throughout his academic career at The College of New Jersey, Charles held several leadership positions as a Bonner Scholar in the Bonner Institute for Civic and Community Engagement program. He was a site leader for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) where he provided GED tutoring and meal service to participating patrons. As the community service chairperson for Delta Tau Delta International Fraternity's colony, Charles was responsible for creating service partnerships between The College of New Jersey and the Ewing/Trenton community. Both positions focused on improving the lives of the less fortunate. Upon graduation, Charles plans on attending graduate school to pursue a career in public service.

Charles is thankful to the Educational Opportunity Fund for providing a "supportive family" environment where students of different and similar backgrounds can come together and achieve academic success. Charles's most memorable moment as an EOF student was participating in the summer bridge program where he connected with EOF students from various cultures and communities. Charles will be forever grateful for the experiences and opportunities afforded to him by The College of New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund. As an EOF alumnus, Charles plans on participating in future networking events and staying connected to support the next generation of EOF students.

College of Saint Elizabeth

***8 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mellika George
Ashley Murray
Elvina Nazaire
Onika Searchwell

Academic Achievement

Adia Boyd
Carsonie Legerme
Dominique Schultz
Kelly-Ann Wilson

Outstanding Achievement

Kelly-Ann Wilson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Ashley Murray**

Ashley Murray was born and raised in Jamaica and immigrated to the United States in 2009. She is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Paterson, New Jersey where she excelled in her classes. During her senior year in high school she entered a scholarship pageant sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her participation in the pageant helped her develop self-confidence, an appreciation for hard work, and as the winner of the pageant college scholarship funds.

Ashley is looking forward to her graduation in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. During her four years at The College of Saint Elizabeth, she was able to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.48, while working 40 hours a week. She was also an active member of The West Indian Student Association and the Psychology club.

As an intern at the Florham Park Police Department during her sophomore year, Ashley gained valuable experience in the area of criminal justice. She also completed an internship at Deirdre's House working with abused children and is currently working at a law firm.

County College of Morris

*6 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Michael Kelly

Tuyen Nguyen

Academic Achievement

Michele Franchi

Marco Garcia

Outstanding Achievement

Henry Rincon

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Tuyen Nguyen**

Tuyen Nguyen's hometown is Rockaway, New Jersey (Morris County). She came to the United States from Vietnam knowing very little English. She graduated from high school in Vietnam,

and worked in the business field. After immigrating to the U.S., she began from scratch learning English and adapting to a new culture, while also working to help her family financially and other siblings attend college. Still, Tuyen knew after putting her family first, this was her moment and she was ready to venture into college. As Tuyen began her studies at County College of Morris (CCM), she initially found the educational system and the American way of life challenging, but she never gave up and continued her education.

She sought help from professors, tutoring centers, and fellow EOF students as she learned to navigate the challenges of college. Her commitment to excellence has often resulted in her falling asleep studying at 3 or 4 am with her Vietnamese/English dictionary in hand. As a result, she has received Academic Achievement Awards (3.0 GPA) each semester and is a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. She has also demonstrated a consistent and responsible work ethic in meeting with her EOF counselor weekly and participating fully in the EOF program and performing community service.

During her time at CCM, she has worked tirelessly and used every possible resource to succeed academically. She has maintained a high GPA, while also being very involved in EOF activities, serving as the Secretary of the EOF Student Alliance. In addition, she works 20 hours a week and has always contributed to helping her family at home.

Tuyen has made many friends in the program and is well-liked by both the staff and her peers. She has often expressed her gratitude for the many ways EOF has enabled her to succeed in college. She is an individual who will give back to others in the future. Tuyen will be graduating in May 2015 with a business degree and plans to attend Rutgers University Business School in the fall of 2015.

Cumberland County College

***17 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Yolanda Colon
Kristina Davies
Edgar Espinosa

Elliot Ortiz
Jacob Schiewe
Miranda Silva

Ramon Soto
Peter VanMeter
Zugeiy Yopez

Academic Achievement

Ashley Arocho
Daisy Joaquin
Dessarae Macera

Felix Moran Jr.
Angela Pagan
Monica Rodriguez

Kadijah Rodriguez
Iris Vega

Outstanding Achievement

Kristina Davies

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kristina Davies

Kristina Davies has performed exceptionally well while attending Cumberland County College. Ms. Davies was born in Stratford, New Jersey and earned her GED in 2009. This spring, Kristina will be graduating with a degree and two certificates: an associate's degree in Social Service, a Certificate in Alcohol & Drug Counseling and a Certificate in Criminal Justice. Her current G.P.A is 3.83 and she has earned spots on both the Dean's List and President's List consistently.

Just as Kristina excelled within the classroom, she is equally involved in leadership roles and activities that help make a difference in the civic life of the college and surrounding communities. Kristina is the Treasurer of the Faith Fellowship Club and serves as one of the Masters of Ceremony at the Night of Praise. She is also the recipient of the Josephine McDaniel Lockette EOF Memorial Scholarship, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Criminal Justice Society, and the Student Senate.

Kristina served as an EOF Peer Counselor and fulfilled a similar role as a Peer Assistant for a Freshman Seminar. Since 2012, Kristina has served as a Narcotics Anonymous Sponsor and works with the homeless at Frank's Place in Camden, New Jersey. Kristina plans to transfer to Rutgers University Camden where she plans to earn a bachelor's degree in Social Work. Kristina's ultimate goal is to earn a doctorate in Social Work and hold a position as a clinical administrator at a hospital.

Drew University

*10 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Jasmine Noel

Jency Saenz

Omaru Washington

Godfrey Osazee Osawe

Sherin Hanafy

Miho Watabe

Academic Achievement

Elio Barrera

Bryan Gaviria-Jimenez

Andres Lopez

Outstanding Achievement

Jose I. Escalante

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jose I. Escalante

Jose I. Escalante is a graduate of Memorial High School in West New York, New Jersey. He will graduate from Drew University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Studies with a minor

in Spanish in May 2015. Jose has been very active on campus. He was the Fundraising Coordinator with the Drew Honduras project, Peer Mentor with the Educational Opportunity Scholars Program, and a Senior Analyst with the Drew Investment Fund. He also had a great opportunity to intern with Pershing LLC, BNY Mellon Company and iKen Watches; and traveled to Japan to participate in the Management Styles and Strategies: U.S. vs. Japan program. Jose is a member of Epsilon Omega Psi Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. After graduation, Jose plans to pursue a career as a financial analyst.

Essex County College

***58 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Jacinta Aniebue
Abiodun Ashade
Anthony Atahualpa
Melina A. Badillo
Fidele E. Banyolak
Ines M. Berrospi
Ivelise N. Cruz
Barbara Cumming
Peter J. Davis
Amanda Dialsingh
Rodrigo Gomezcoello Lopez
Peta-Gaye M. Greene
Jenny Guaman

Judith M. Guillen
Mariam Y. Hamdan
Serrietta Johnson
Rohanbhai K. Mavani
Huendy Medina
Manoucheka Meronvil
Katherine Montilla
Steeven Bico Nicolas
Pascal Pierre
Elvia E. Tapia
Sasha Taylor
Banafshen Zarinozve

Academic Achievement

Miguelina P. Balentin
Georgina Bruce
Leslie M. Cabrera
Aneydi De La Rosa
Safiya Elkomey
Sylviane Francois Saint-Albert
Guilda Gabaud
Edoneko Gilmore
Jaqueline Gonzalez
Maria Guanoluisa
Ivy C. Hall-Abraham
Marie A. Henrys
Tricia Jimenez
Felismene Larose
Nancy Martin
Romel Masson

Cassandra Miles
Emanuela Moreira
Priscilla Y. Ofori
Paulina A. Opoku
Maria M. Ortiz
Faustina B. Owusu
Kimairys Paulino
Damarys Peralta
Nicole Purcell
David A. Rivera
Cassandra Roberts
Juan Fernandez Rocha Perez
Jose Rodriguez
Kelly Saether
Jemina Toapanta
Shakeeah D. Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Randy Westry

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Randy Westry

Randy Westry is an ambitious student who works hard and is extremely inquisitive. He is also a very personable, kind, considerate and humorous person, which puts him in good stead with his fellow students. Randy is an Education major; he will graduate in May 2015 with an Associate in Arts degree and plans to transfer to a four year institution to earn a bachelor's degree, as a Physician Assistant.

Randy is currently the president of the XAE/EOF Club, a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and is active in student government. He is a team player and a pleasure to work with. He demonstrates leadership skills in all tasks that are given to him and keeps the EOF club members committed to their goals. Randy is calm, poised and self-confident and has done quite a bit of public speaking on behalf of the EOF department and the club. In addition, he raised funds, and shopped for gifts for "Angel Tree" and "Toys for Tots." He recently received a promotion on his job. Randy always finds contentment in helping others and will succeed in whatever future endeavors he pursues.

Fairleigh Dickinson University- Florham Campus

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mariely Guillen

Academic Achievement

Esteban Beltran

Anthony Ihe

Michelle Martinez

Jalila Solaiman

Outstanding Achievement

Cindy Rodriguez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Michelle Martinez

Michelle Martinez is from North Bergen, New Jersey and graduated from North Bergen High School in 2011. She has been an active participant with the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program since the fall of 2011. Michelle has been on the Dean's List and earned Honors since the start of her college career. She was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society

in 2013 and has been excelling ever since. With a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry, Michelle would like to obtain her masters in biology before going to medical school.

Michelle is a well-rounded student who always strives for excellence and is determined to succeed. She is an inspiration to her mother who is proud of her for being the first member of her family to go to college. Michelle has been able to excel both academically and professionally. Michelle has a passion for animals. She volunteers her time with the Animal Life Savers organization. She also completed her internship at the Edgewater Animal Hospital. Currently, Michelle does research with one of her biology professors. She also serves as a Teacher's Assistant with the biology department, where she assists professors with lab work, preparation, and maintenance for the biology classes. In addition, Michelle works for the EOF program as a biology tutor. Michelle also serves as a mentor to other EOF students by encouraging them to do well in school.

Michelle is an exemplary student who appreciates the EOF program and will go above and beyond to assist the program in any way.

Fairleigh Dickinson University – Metropolitan Campus

***17 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Marcela Alzate-Gomez

Alicia Hall

Stacey Torres

Federico Alzate-Gomez

Frankie Hall-Watson

Ashly Gomez

Darlyn Peralta

Academic Achievement

Rosanna Anazco

Olem Nyamiaka

Heather Saurel

Bria Anderson

Tiffany Ocampo

Mellisa Tribastone

Kenny Bedoya

Jhonel Richards

Porschia Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Kissairy Franco

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ashly Gomez

Ashly Gomez, of Elizabeth, New Jersey is originally from the Dominican Republic and has been living in the United States since 2010. She has accomplished many of her personal goals since immigrating to the United States. Ashly will graduate from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) with a bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. A Dean's List and Honors List student each semester of her enrollment at FDU, she was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society in April of 2012 and earned a Diamond upgrade in 2013 and 2014. She is involved in numerous on-campus organizations and volunteer activities, including the University Honors Program, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and FDU's Relay for Life.

In addition, she is a member of the Hotel Society, in which she assumed the role of Vice-President during the 2013-2014 academic year, and the Club Managers Association of America. Ashly has earned EOF's "Rookie Award" for having the highest GPA of all freshmen during her first year and maintained the highest GPA annually for her class. In addition to her numerous academic achievement honors, Ashly has been recognized and awarded two scholarships from the International School of Hospitality and Tourism management, along with a scholarship from Hyatt Hotels for her academic success. She plans on attending seminars in Switzerland and Italy during the spring semester of 2015. Ashly has been employed with the Marriott Hotel in Teaneck, New Jersey for almost two years as a Guest Service Representative and after graduation plans to transfer to a hotel in New York City to pursue employment as a Revenue Manager.

Ashly is a leading example of a student who has a great appreciation for the EOF program. Ashly attributes her success to the EOF program and is grateful for the support and encouragement she has received throughout her tenure.

Felician College

*12 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Melissa Cepeda	Jennifer Marciano
Wendy Giang	Charul Yadav

Academic Achievement

Miryam Anci-Jimenez	Franckel B. Gabriel	Jawaine McPherson
Ritchell Antoine	Yinet Lopez	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Melissa Cepeda

Melissa Cepeda grew up in North Bergen, New Jersey and graduated from North Bergen High School. She is a biology pre-medical student at Felician College with a minor in chemistry and will graduate in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree; an accomplishment that she is very proud of.

Melissa is very goal-oriented and has never let anything deter her from reaching her dreams. She has always aimed for success and has been named to the Dean's List every semester of her enrollment at Felician. Melissa is also very active within EOF, other on campus activities and in her community. She has volunteered with the Palisades Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital, which is where she truly discovered her passion for medicine.

Melissa has set extraordinary goals post-graduation, and plans to pursue a pharmacy degree and MBA in the fall. Her future aspirations include successfully completing her degree and finding

employment at a hospital as a pharmacist. Melissa's passion, dedication and intelligence will shine as she continues her education and she will continue to succeed in all her future endeavors.

Georgian Court University

***5 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Stacy Bankel

Keisha Barnhill

Academic Achievement

Stephanie Guzman

Stephanie Poma

Outstanding Achievement

Shanae Jones

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shanae Jones

Shanae Jones graduated from Trenton Central High School in Trenton, New Jersey. She will obtain her bachelor's degree with a major in Graphic Design Multimedia from Georgian Court University (GCU) in May of 2015. Shanae has undergone many hardships while pursuing her undergraduate degree. However, she persevered and participated in the Student Government Association as Campus Activities Board Vice-President (2013) and President in (2014). She was a member of the Dance Theater Club (2012) and a Hip-Hop teacher (2013). In addition, she was a member of the Black Student Union in (2010-2011). Shanae was the layout editor for the school magazine, "Fountain Spray" (2014) and the director of the annual fashion show, "The New Era" (2014).

Throughout her years attending Georgian Court University, Shanae has received the GCU/EOF Academic Achievement Award. She plans on going to graduate school in the near future. Her desire is to live in California and become a well-known clothes designer, animator, games designer, 2D and 3D cartoons, movies-- all things creative is her dream. Like she always says, "We never know what the future holds and anything is possible. Even the word impossible has the phrase I'm possible."

Hudson County Community College

***19 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Emely Wexler

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mai Abdelhamid
Janet Amparo
Angel Ayala
Hasona Bratcher

Erika Calero
Ashley Carvajal
Heena Chaudhari
Kyara Martin

Kinza Naveed
Sonal Patel

Academic Achievement

Aneesa Awan
Destiny Dunbar
Kathy Gamarra

Ernesto Grassi
Fransheska Lorenzo
Robin D. Milow

Adriana Rodriguez
Nidiyojana Rubiano

Outstanding Achievement

Hasona Bratcher

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Robin D. Milow

Robin D. Milow is a native and lifelong resident of Jersey City. She is a 1973 graduate of Henry Snyder High School (Jersey City) and a retiree of the United States Postal Service. After raising her children and attempting to define her career path through several occupations, she enrolled at Hudson County Community College through the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program. Robin completed her Associates of Arts (A.A.) degree in Psychology in winter 2015 after overcoming a number of personal obstacles and challenges.

Her plan is to attend New Jersey City University, obtain her bachelor's and master's degrees in Psychology and to become a school psychologist. Her second professional goal is to provide counseling to battered and abused women.

Robin attributes a great deal of her academic success to the EOF Program. She notes that she's had some "hills and valleys, [but] if it had not been for the understanding, compassion and encouragement of the EOF staff, [her] dreams and aspirations would have not come to fruition." She adds, for those who are contemplating the continuance of their education, "...don't talk about it, be about it. Education has given me a different perspective on life; going back to school was the best decision that I have ever made."

Kean University

***48 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Lauren Cuddy

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Yasmin Amatur-Rashid
Cristina Andrade

Cesar Aranguena
Aaron Bonilla

Eduardo Bustamante
Jessica Cop

Ashley Davis
Alexis Denmon
Shehab Elgendy
Julio Garcia
Stephanie Garcia
Judy John-Style
Rene Lopez
Adrianne Lynn

Katty Mastrodomenico
Katya Matamoros
Caolanny Melo
Brittany Morrone
Dalia Noeman
Nicole Paiva
Tabitha Peterson
Kenia Pimentel

Symone Powell
Alyce Sanders
Samantha Stocker
Valerie Tabano
Incenge Torres
Ana Vento
Martina Wasef
Shira Yerike

Academic Achievement

Chinwe Asiegbulem
Poonam Bains
Edna Correia
Caitlin Danko
Meris Fuster
Alexandra Gil

Kevin Gutierrez
Shaquanna Hutchinson
Nysha James
Jacquelyn Lee
Tanora Ligons
Vivian Lopez

Gisselle Mena
Marissa Oliveira
Sumana Prasai
Edwardo Sanchez

Outstanding Achievement

Gequan Williams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Lauren Cuddy

Lauren Cuddy has been nominated for the 2015 EOF Distinguished Scholarship Award. She grew up in Matawan, New Jersey and graduated from Biotechnology High School in Freehold. She currently resides in Keyport with her mother and sister.

Lauren started college at Pennsylvania State University in 2009-2010. Her studies were interrupted for one year due to her father's death which impacted immensely on the family's income. In 2011, Lauren transferred to Brookdale Community College (BCC) in Lincroft to resume her studies as an Early Childhood Education major. A persistent and conscientious young woman, Lauren made great strides academically while at BCC and graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2012 with a 3.96 GPA. The EOF Program at BCC nominated her for a NJHE/EOF Outstanding Academic Achievement Award for that academic year.

Lauren has consistently been on the Dean's List every semester she has attended Kean. She will graduate May 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education and a second major in Psychology. With a GPA of 4.0, Lauren will be conferred Summa Cum Laude honors. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and Chi Alpha Epsilon and will be inducted this spring into the EEO/EOF Honor Society - Epsilon Epsilon Omega. She is a recipient of the 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Undergraduate Writing Award. Lauren completed a semester with the Disney College Program coordinating children's activities at the Port Orleans Resort and was also selected to participate in the Study Abroad Program in Paris, France.

After graduation, Lauren plans to apply for a position at Walt Disney World or pursue a teaching position in Florida.

Mercer County Community College

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Mike Chica

Sherlin Martinez

Courtney Conklin

Sonia Santiago

Academic Achievement

Yaneida Medina

Yohanna Pisabaj

Outstanding Achievement

Cornelius Robinson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sherlin Elizabeth Martinez

Sherlin Elizabeth Martinez will receive an Associate in Arts Degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences in May 2015. Miss Martinez has made the Dean's List each semester of her enrollment at Mercer. She has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. In addition to working to help her family financially, she is an active church youth leader, a mentor in the Leaders of Tomorrow with the Boys and Girls Club, and a student ambassador at Mercer. Miss Martinez is originally from Mexico and a 2012 graduate of Trenton High School West. She plans to major in Criminal Justice and Psychology at Rutgers University so that she can give back to her community by working with inner city youth.

Middlesex County College

***28 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Claudio Esteves

Taher Mohamed-Ali

Tracey Tipaldo

Jordan Geffrard

Karla Oliva

Academic Achievement

Kendra Heglar

Desiree Stankowitz

Yashmin Nagujja

Craig Thomas

Hager Saad

Hien Tran

Mohamed Shukry Shahul Hameed

Outstanding Achievement

Maurice James

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Maurice James

Maurice James is a resident of North Brunswick Township, New Jersey and is a 2011 graduate of North Brunswick Township High School. Maurice came to Middlesex County College (MCC) with a strong desire to pursue a degree in Nursing; he states that he comes from a “family of nurses”. Like many of our students, Maurice worked part-time to support himself but made time to participate in the EOF club as a member. In 2013, Maurice was accepted to the highly competitive MCC nursing program. Maurice has a desire to pursue a career as a medical-surgical nurse. Upon graduation from MCC, Maurice plans to transfer to Thomas Edison State College in order to pursue his Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Monmouth University

***19 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Katelyn Agabiti
Jason Caianiello
Drew Corrigan
Nohely D'Oleo

Natali Greco
Kristine Gunningham
Zarrin Rahman
Sana Rashid

Miguel Rios
Monik Suit

Academic Achievement

Gina Gilanyi
Gary Mejia
Andrew Mendez

Melina Morel
Rozalyn Morrow
Adit Patel

Antonia Popo
Vincent Shockley

Outstanding Achievement

Miguel Nunez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Miguel Nunez

Mr. Miguel Nunez is graduating from Monmouth University (MU) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in May 2015. The Asbury Park, New Jersey native came to Monmouth University due to his connection with MU Political Science Professor Dr. Rekha Datta. Dr. Datta volunteered her time at the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization of (BBBS) Monmouth and Middlesex counties in Asbury Park, often speaking to the members about a college degree. Little did Dr. Datta know that her talks influenced Miguel, a BBBS member, to

choose Monmouth University. Miguel feels that he won the lottery when he was awarded the Educational Opportunity Fund Program grant.

Miguel has a strong work ethic in and out of the classroom. As a student, his drive to study stemmed from his Valedictorian Honor status from Asbury Park High School. Coming from a single parent household, Miguel is financially responsible for himself often working two part-time jobs in order to send money home to his mother. He credits his academic and personal experiences, as well as his federal college work study jobs at Monmouth University for teaching him responsibility, professionalism and basic communication skills.

Miguel is a strong young man and exhibits strong character. His peers, employers and professors would share with you that he is friendly and committed to academic excellence. His five to ten year goals include: to work in Washington D.C. for the Department of Education or in the area of international relations. In the meantime, he is interviewing to work in Japan to teach English.

Montclair State University

***44 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Vanessa Ackon	Jennifer Infante	Fuleyka Polanco
Ayah Awad	Krystal Land	Marissa Ranalli
Alexandra Belizaire	Karen Lopez	Kaunda Richardson
Ashley Cintron	Danielle Lourenco	Christian Ruiz
Johanne Dorvil	Mark Migliaccio	Christina Saint-Jean
Marleny Figueroa	Rachelle Noel	Petre Vangelovski

Academic Achievement

Joana Opokua Ampofo	Victor Espinoza	Jeannabel Reyes
Leonard Auguste	Eva Fernandez	Samira Shoghorui
Ja-Tonja Bailey	Brittany Johnson	Moises Sosa
Margarita Broncano	Abdurakhmon Kayumov	Elvin Sosa Lopez
Paolah Chaparro	Alaa Mahmoud	Costas Tagritzis
Viola Ebrahim	Michelle Marmol	Daniel Udvari

Outstanding Achievement

Ligia Rivera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Alexandra Belizaire

The Montclair State University Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) proudly announces Ms. Alexandra Belizaire for the EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight.

Alexandra graduated from Sayreville War Memorial High School in 2011 and currently resides in Sayreville, New Jersey. Ms. Belizaire transferred to Montclair State University in 2013, after initiating her studies at Middlesex County College.

She came to EOF with a major goal of earning a bachelor's degree and within four semesters. Ms. Belizaire is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Economics. She registered for 18 credits in her first semester at Montclair State University and earned a 3.6 grade point average. She has earned Dean's List status 2 out of 3 semesters and has maintained a 3.4 GPA.

Ms. Belizaire is an excellent example of success and perseverance to her classmates. Her focus has enabled her to overcome many obstacles and never waver from obtaining her goal. In May, she will be inducted into the Chi Alpha Honor Society. In the future, Ms. Belizaire would like to pursue a master's degree in Business Administration.

Montclair State University Health Careers Program

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Thalya Fermin
Yanina Figuereo
Linda Trujillo

Academic Achievement

Stephanie Cornejo
Duchana Gille
Andrea Wiggs

Outstanding Achievement

Linda Trujillo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Thalya Fermin

A resident of Union City, New Jersey, Thalya Fermin graduated from Union City High School with a GPA of 4.35, and a class rank of six out of six hundred and sixty peers.

Accepting the admissions offer to attend Montclair State University (MSU), through the Health Careers Program, Thalya completed undergraduate requirements in December of 2014 (three and a half years), as a molecular biology major with a minor in chemistry.

An outstanding, role model she will graduate magna cum laude (3.67) in May 2015, with a Bachelor of Science degree. Her numerous accomplishments include: Dean's List (fall 2011, fall

2012, spring 2013, fall 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014); awarded a \$1,000 Van Houten Memorial Foundation Scholarship; selected from a competitive pool of applicants over the past three summers to participate in the Northeast Regional Alliance Program (NERA) at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School; assisting Dr. Torian Easterling, Family Medicine Practitioner, and Dr. Hanna Hamdi, Social Epidemiologist, as a research intern (summer 2014); and through the Healthy Living Initiative, at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, completed a clinical research project implementing healthy eating and physical practices for Newark preschool teachers.

In addition to fulfilling rigorous course requirements, Thalya found time to be involved in on-campus activities. She served as an Admissions Ambassador, was a CPR Emergency Medical Volunteer with MSU's Emergency Medical Services, was a member of Global Medical Brigades, held membership with the Latin American Student Organization, and was Captain of MSU's intramural softball team.

Seriously interested in becoming an osteopathic physician, Thalya shadowed Dr. Zakarchenko, D.O. for a year at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC), and continues to be employed as an Emergency Department Physician Scribe. Through this position, she is responsible for writing patient charts for the physician.

Having completed the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOMAS) application, Thalya recently interviewed at Rowan University, School of Osteopathic Medicine. Not only is she awaiting an admissions decision from Rowan University, School of Osteopathic Medicine, but interview responses from other Osteopathic Schools.

New Jersey City University

*33 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Sylvia Caccioppoli	Ali Khan	Arjayla Ortiz
Michelle Cheng	Melad Latif	Jennifer Perez
Oscar El-Hassan	Anida Masoud	Thrisha Sandoval
Llane Hernandez	Kirolos Mikhail	A'nn Thomas
Rafael Jimenez	Julisa Mugica	Jennifer Valdez

Academic Achievement

Sondas Abid	Tatiana Cortes	Michelle Pena
Munirah Abiola-Bisiolu	Wildania Estevez	Monica Romero
Jochristelle Aguilar	Ellen Horace	Gladys Temstone
Katherine Alban Freire	Raivelys Martinez	Nelanth Vithanage
Maman Cisse	Eduardo Mena Ramos	

Outstanding Achievement

Barbara Etheredge

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Oscar El-Hassan

Oscar El-Hassan has recently completed his undergraduate study at New Jersey City University at the top of his class. He will be awarded a Bachelor of Science degree this spring with a concentration in Criminal Justice and a Pre-Law minor. Born and raised in Jersey City, Oscar is a product of the inner city. As the son of Cuban parents who immigrated to the US in the early seventies, Oscar experienced firsthand the struggles faced by many disenfranchised families in urban America. Afflicted with the usual array of obstacles found in his environment, Oscar seemed destined to repeat another cycle of poverty within his family. At the age of 16 he made the mistake of dropping out of high school. The years that followed led him to multiple dead-end jobs in an attempt to make ends meet. After a decade of frustration with minimum wage employment, he was resolute on instilling change in his life. This change initiated the steps that led him to college.

Oscar's first step was to obtain his GED and subsequently enter Hudson County Community College. Enrolled as an undecided major, Oscar soon discovered an interest in the field of law. He obtained an associate's degree summa cum laude while also establishing himself as a strong academic achiever. A full Presidential Scholarship for transfer students at New Jersey City University followed.

Oscar has maintained a stellar GPA throughout undergraduate school. He has received various accolades ranging from consistent Dean's List recognition to multiple academic achievement awards. He is a member of numerous honor societies and is involved in different capacities. His memberships include Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society of Community Colleges, Tau Sigma National Honor Society for Transfer Students, Sigma Alpha Pi National Society of Leadership and Success, the Golden Key International Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society of EOF/OSP Students (Executive Board/Treasurer).

He is currently preparing to take the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) to secure admission to law school. His plans are to complete an accelerated Juris Doctor (J.D.) program and enter practice.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Maiko Arana
John B. Canela
Michael De La Cruz
Nicole Anne V. Lopez

Abdelmoudjib Mechtemel Belkadi
Ameet Singh
Damaris R. Torres

Academic Achievement

Wilfredo Alvizures
Ricardo J. Quinteros

Yogeshwar Ramkirath
Shaishav P. Rana

Outstanding Achievement

Mohammad M. Aziz

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Maiko Arana

Maiko Arana is a resident of Hightstown, New Jersey and a graduate of Hightstown High School. He graduated from Mercer County Community College in August 2012 with an Associate's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology. He will receive a Bachelor of Science degree from New Jersey Institute of Technology on May 19, 2015. An Electrical and Computer Technology major, he has earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.93. He is a member of the Phi Theta Honors Society spring 2012, Tau Alpha Pi spring 2014 and Delta Epsilon Iota, spring 2014. Maiko is also a member of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. He has been named to the Dean's List each semester during his tenure at NJIT. He is currently undecided about his plans for the future but, hopes to attend graduate school someday.

Ocean County College

***16 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Adriel Dunwoody
Samantha Leone
Amanda Lujardo

Jacob Nixon
Eugene Pistilli
Jowanna Reeves

Lavinia Romero
Jean Paul Steinberg
Mario Steriti

Academic Achievement

Jessica Davidson
Rebecca Gechtberg
Klever Goracy

José Parra
Nancy Soto
Brian Thelin

Kristen Walker

Outstanding Achievement

Eugene Pistilli

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Jean Paul Steinberg

Jean Paul Steinberg, affectionately known as JP, father of two young girls, commenced his academic journey at Ocean County College (OCC) after many years of searching, experimenting and assessing his place and future in society. Once choosing to earn a college degree, JP's commitment was clear and definite; demonstrated by a cumulative GPA of 3.66 and his faithful bicycle commute to campus, regardless of the weather. He will have completed his AA degree in one year and one semester.

During his time at OCC, Jean Paul consistently contributed to campus life and the greater community, expanding his academic experience and learning, while dispelling myths of poverty

and barriers because of past choices. He provided those within hearing an example of victory. JP served as student speaker for various departments, programs, as well as student organizations, in addition to community action outreach organizations. Compassionately, JP lent his efforts and intellectual talents in partnering and working with The Consortium of Non-Profit Housing Center of Ocean and Mind and Body Institute of America. In this vein, he has embarked on a goal to revamp alcohol and drug counseling and reintegration practice and theory. In a lighter note, this honor student is also a musician and OCC radio personality who graces the Ocean County airways with a funky Latin flair and tunes.

JP will receive an Associate in Arts/Liberal Arts degree, as well as Certification in the Addictions Counseling program. Jean Paul plans to transfer to Kean University in the fall of 2015. His journey will not end at Kean as he considers pursuing a law degree thereafter to practice in public service.

Passaic County Community College

*21 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Carla Ayala
 Freddy Ccorpa
 Sterling Espallat

Nafeesah Goldsmith
 Laura Lopez
 Nykia Rogers

Frenesis Santos
 Jennifer Soriano

Academic Achievement

Yousef Alkhudairi
 Chaimaa Barki
 Mabel Cabrera
 Daniela Colon

Francesca Franceschi
 Noah Freeman
 Temica Johnson
 Jorge Lopez

Dilenia Lopez
 Geovanny Nunez
 Tazrin Shammi
 Tania Soto

Outstanding Achievement

Javon Barrett

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Carla Ayala

Carla Ayala is a resident of Clifton New Jersey and a 2013 graduate of Clifton High School. As a high school student, Carla exhibited her early dedication to higher education as she became a dual enrollment student at Passaic County Community College (PCCC). Her participation in the EOF program began in the summer of 2013. Carla is a Sociology major which meets her goal of advocacy and community service. She is a member of PCCC's Honor Society, the student programming committee, as well as Vice President of the Alliance of EOF Students of New Jersey (AESNJ) at Passaic County Community College. As a spring 2015 graduate of PCCC, Carla plans to attend Rutgers University and continue her studies in the field of sociology.

Ramapo College of New Jersey

***15 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Danielle Corcione

Michelle Gonzalez

Melyssa Horton

Gerson Lovera

Eugene Song

Jeremy Watson

Academic Achievement

Tania Guerrero

Catherine McCarthy

Evelyn Ramos

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Danielle Corcione

Danielle Corcione, a native of Ocean City, graduates this May with a bachelor's degree in Literature and Communications and a concentration in Creative Writing. Her minor is Anthropology. In pursuit of her bachelor's degree, Danielle studied abroad in both the Czech Republic and India. She has presented workshops for the college library and for the EOF summer program.

Danielle is a member of the College Honors program, the College Democrats, the Model UN, and Sigma Tau Delta Literary Honor Society. Her future goals are to serve underrepresented communities and pursue her passion of writing.

Raritan Valley Community College

***3 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Zineb Ghali

Academic Achievement

Katherine Bauer

Outstanding Achievement

Alicia Edwards

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Katherine Bauer

Katherine Bauer, also known as Kat, was raised in Somerset County New Jersey. Education was always a top priority in her life. Kat experienced a tremendous amount of adversity to achieve

her educational goals. As a child her family faced extreme financial hardships and she successfully battled thyroid cancer. Despite these challenges Kat was able to do what was required in school and did complete high school. After graduating high school, she endured numerous personal obstacles that impeded her pursuit of higher education, but eventually found her way to Raritan Valley Community College (RVCC). Her first day at RVCC she was introduced to the Director of the EOF program by one of the Admissions Counselors who introduced her as, “the ideal candidate for the EOF program,” based on her background and desire to use education as the force that would change her life. During her time at RVCC she was on the Dean’s List 3 times, inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and actively participated in several clubs on campus.

In addition to her academic honors, she was determined to give back to the community which had given her so much. She was employed on campus in the Admissions Office, served a term as a Student Government Senator, then a term on the Student Government Programming Board, as well as a semester as a Student Ambassador. Kat was also a leader in the EOF program where she became an EOF Peer Leader and helped many students understand how to become good students and better navigate their transition from high school to college.

In the summer of 2014 she achieved her goal of earning an Associate’s Degree in Liberal Arts Communications graduating with a 3.40 GPA. Kat’s was able to accomplish this in spite of not having stable housing throughout her tenure at RVCC. She was accepted to Rutgers University and began her studies toward a bachelor’s degree in Communication in fall 2014. Her first semester there she achieved straight A’s placing her on the Presidents List. Kat’s tenacity has helped her to achieve all that she has today. Through it all she remains humble, determined and gives back at every opportunity she can.

Rider University

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Shawnee Cross

Paulina Cymerman -Zibowski

Christopher Mari- Davis

Naquasia Ramsey-Sheppard

Queen Ross

Academic Achievement

David Adams

Bria Champion

Anthony McPherson

Outstanding Achievement

Leila Gibbs

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Queen Ross

Queen Ross is a senior accounting student from Roebling, New Jersey. She will receive her undergraduate degree in Accounting in the spring of 2015. During her years at Rider University

she has been an active member in various student organizations: including, the RUAAPP (Rider University Aspiring Accounting Program) and Women's Center where she has held two leadership roles. She is also a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Academic Honor society. During the summers of both her sophomore and junior year Queen worked as an intern at Ernst & Young. After obtaining her undergraduate degree she wishes to continue her education by enrolling in a master's program for Accounting. Her goal is to obtain a CPA certification and to pursue a career as an auditor at Ernst and Young.

Rider University - Westminster Choir College

***2 award recipients in total**

Academic Achievement

Emmanuel Acosta

Outstanding Achievement

Vinroy D. Brown Jr.

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr.

Vinroy D. Brown, Jr. is a native of North Brunswick, New Jersey. He will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Music degree in Sacred Music. Vinroy has done much to bring positive campus attention to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) of Rider University at Westminster Choir College (WCC). He has served as president of the Black and Hispanic Alliance for the past three years and has been instrumental in coordinating and bringing to campus well known musical clinicians of color to academically interact with the entire campus community. Vinroy also instituted and is the conductor of one of the few approved student run choirs at WCC, "Canticum Novum," or "New Song" which performs new and traditional sacred works. He is also the student conductor for the Westminster Jubilee Singers.

Vinroy takes great pride in being an EOP student, and he brings the spirit, intent and purpose of EOP to everything he does. He has taken to heart the "Opportunity" in EOP, and our campus is the better for it.

Rowan College at Gloucester County

***19 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Kathleen Connelly

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Dominic Boccaleri

NaTaya Clarke

Emily Crane

Amy Dennis

Zachary DiMattia

John Grzechowiak

Lisa Larson
Carla Mancini

Deanna Micalizzi
Christopher Moore

Jacquelyn Thomasson

Academic Achievement

James Anderson
Joseph Della Pia, Jr.

Chelsea Rae Graham
Chloe Helms

Navneet Kaur
Jessica Mullary

Outstanding Achievement

Kathleen Connelly

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Kathleen Connelly

Ms. Kathleen Connelly is an Arts and Sciences major with a Psychology option at Rowan College at Gloucester County (RCGC). Kathleen will receive an Associate in Arts degree with a transfer option. She is a resident of Clayton, New Jersey and attended Clayton High School. Ms. Connelly has taken advantage of many wonderful opportunities at Rowan College at Gloucester County. She has made the President's List every semester of her attendance at the College. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and previously served as the Vice President of Scholarship. Ms. Connelly is a trustee of the Student Government Association and the President of the Educational Opportunity Fund Club.

Ms. Connelly is an active member of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges. She is the first person from RCGC to attend NEW Leadership New Jersey, which is a women's leadership conference. In addition, Ms. Connelly is the first person from South Jersey to be selected into America Needs You; a two year mentor fellowship for first generation college students. Ms. Connelly's future plans are to complete a bachelor's degree with double majors in Psychology and Political Science. She plans on attending graduate school to become a mental health therapist for children and teens.

Rowan University Camden

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Carolina Duran Lora
Anthony Qui Tran
Chanh Tran

Academic Achievement

Alvin Parache Jr
Duy Tran

Outstanding Achievement

Edgar Irizarry

Rowan University Glassboro

***24 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Nirmit Kansagra

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Shahina Akter

Andrea Carrera

Anna Choi

Pamela Matthew

Brianne O'Leary

Atisha Patel

Reema Patel

Jaimie Stone

Nicole Sullivan

Academic Achievement

Kylene Arcaini

Jessica Guzman

Fatima Jalloh

Jiong Kuang

Jasmine Laramore

Kaitlyn Laverty

Domenique Rodriguez

Jaslyn Williams

Brea Woodson

Outstanding Achievement

Ciara Colleton

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Pamela Matthew

Pamela Matthew is a resident of East Orange. She is majoring in Biological Sciences with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. During her undergraduate study, she has been named to the Dean's list 5 out of 7 semesters and selected for several honor societies and scholarship programs: Chi Alpha Epsilon, Gates Millennium Scholars, KFC Colonel's Scholars, Rowan Leadership Awardee, STAR Certificate of Achievement, and the Arthur Schomburg Award for Academic Excellence. She is also a Rowan University President's Scholar of Excellence.

Pamela is actively involved with community service projects. She volunteers with several university organizations including Rowan's Emergency Medical Service (EMS), the Ronald McDonald House (in collaboration with Cooper University Hospital), and with Services Empowering Rights of Victims (SERV).

Pamela tutors at Rowan's Academic Success Center and is a staff member for Residential Learning and University Housing. She has held multiple leadership positions on campus including Vice President of the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS), Vice President of the Student Organization for Caribbean Awareness (SOCA), and Undergraduate Coordinator for the Harley E. Flack Student Mentoring Program.

After completing her bachelor's degree in biological sciences, Pamela plans to attain a master's in Public Health and then attend medical school with a focus on practicing internal medicine. She has completed several internships leading up to her medical career goals including a mini-med school program, the Summer Medical and Dental Education Program (SMDEP), and the North

Eastern Regional Alliance (NERA) Med Prep II and III. She is currently a research assistant working with a professor in the biochemistry department.

Rutgers University Camden

***17 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Michelle Amadio
Ryan Campanella
Angelitha Chambers

Tiyana Hicks
Elizabeth Obeng
Ricardo Rivera

Patricia Wright

Academic Achievement

Alexia Britton
Brigette Forte

Danielle Hom
Charles Obianwu

Debra Whitaker

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Brigette Forte

Brigette Forte grew up in Cape May, New Jersey. Although most of her primary and secondary education was in the Lower Cape May school district, she graduated from high school in Ocean City.

With the constant support and encouragement of the EOF staff at Rutgers University-Camden and her fellow EOF classmates, Brigette participated in many activities during her college career. She has been an active member of the Civic Scholars program, TRIO Student Success Services, and a volunteer for the AmeriCorps Jumpstart program. Brigette served on the Student Government Association as an At-Large Representative for the College of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Criminal Justice Organization and served as Vice-President for the GAO. In addition to her out of classroom activities, she assisted several of her professors with research projects they were conducting.

Brigette plans to attend law school and aspires to be a Judge Advocate General for the United States Air Force. In preparation, she participated in the Law School Admissions Counsel Pre-Law program and gained additional experience as a student investigator for the Rutgers-Camden Law School Clinic. In her spare time, she is a starting player on the Rutgers-Camden Women's Lacrosse team.

Rutgers University Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Yucheng Lin
Simon Lu

Riaz Mohammad
Vimal Patel

Randolph Sturgill

Academic Achievement

Melissa Atocha
Joshua Cesar

Mohammad Chaudhry
Joseph Galipean

Sarah Lee
Arpit Patel

Outstanding Achievement

Simon Lu

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Simon Lu**

Simon Lu is from Cherry Hill, New Jersey and graduated from Lenape High School in 2009. He has maintained outstanding academic performance throughout his college education, achieving Dean's List each semester. Moreover, Simon was inducted to the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society and served as both the local Treasurer and Vice-Chair. He was also inducted to Rho Chi Honor Society for students in the Pharmaceutical Sciences during his professional years of degree study. During school, he worked in community and hospital pharmacy settings, gaining valuable work experience in the pharmaceutical field. He enjoys interacting and helping patients, while making a significant impact on their health. Hence, after graduating Simon plans on pursuing a career that spans both community and hospital settings.

Simon acknowledges that the Rutgers Pharmacy EOF program helped him both academically and financially. He considers the EOF staff and classmates as his second family. As a result, he is a strong believer in giving back. Simon has worked as a tutor for the summer pre-freshman pharmacy EOF program and shared his knowledge with many students throughout the years in multiple pharmacy-related subjects. He sincerely thanks the EOF program for providing this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reach a dream that he could not have without the help of the wonderful pharmacy EOF office staff, Dean Nancy Cintron, Veronica Fernandez, Melissa Vargas Columna, and Betty Cash.

Rutgers University Newark College of Arts & Sciences

***66 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Marwa Abdelaziz
Steven Alvarez
Lionel Ayala
Juan Flores
Vanessa Garcia
Jessica Gonzalez
Jing Jing Huang

Lismara Huggins
Amir Ismail
Mohamad Kourani
Gema Mendoza
Criscia Molina
Claudia Navarro
Yarilyn Polanco

Badr Raissi
Carlos Rodriguez-Acosta
Kanwal Sajjad
Refka Salib
Laura Tavera
Kenya Velarde
Jensine Wright

Academic Achievement

Najla Abdullah
Christiana Agbozo
Alexander Aguilar

Hafeda Benounane
Priscilla Calderon
Joselina Castillo

Olivia Duho
Jhoana Flores
Giselli Garcia

Roxanne Hall
Graciela Hernandez
Josiah Houston
Venessa Malay
Ivan Marchak
Andre McEntyre

Mayuri Patel
Tawanda Peebles
Dimple Rana
Hiral Rana
Edward Romero
Daniel Rosario

Sana Salaam
Gabriela Sevilla
Brian Smith
Ruth Torres
Emmanuel Trujillo
Tiffany Weems

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Priscilla Calderon

Priscilla Calderon is a motivated and persistent individual who is a proud alumna of Belleville High School. Ms. Calderon will graduate in May 2015 from the School of Criminal Justice with a Bachelor Science degree. Upon graduating, Ms. Calderon plans to enroll in a graduate program so that she can pursue a career in the field of college student affairs.

Priscilla has demonstrated natural leadership skills, especially while she was secretary of the Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. at Rutgers – Newark. She worked for four years as an office assistant and peer mentor with the Student Support Service (SSS) program. In addition to working for the SSS program, Priscilla was employed as a peer counselor for two consecutive summers with the ASI/EOF program. She has also been a volunteer with Wynona's House Child Advocacy Center providing services and care for children who have been neglected and abused. Ms. Calderon also interned for the Prison Watch Project, a non-profit organization that advocates for social change in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Priscilla is a role model for those she mentors through the demonstration of a stellar 3.35 cumulative GPA and as a recipient of Dean's List honors for two consecutive semesters.

<h2>Rutgers University</h2> <h3>Office for Diversity and Success in the Sciences</h3>

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Brandon Roberson

Brandon Roberson has been an active participant in the Rutgers University Office for Diversity and Success in the Sciences program (ODASIS) -- an academic support program for students who wish to pursue science majors. Brandon set academic excellence as a personal goal throughout his life, as demonstrated by his nomination to the Dean's List for 3 consecutive semesters. He developed an interest in medicine at a young age and knew it would be necessary to do well in his science courses. Throughout high school he took advantage of opportunities that provided para-medical experience. He became a member of the school's Athletic Training Assistants Club, where he organized and set-up first aid stations at sporting events. He learned multiple injury prevention, stabilization and rehabilitation techniques and from that took a special interest in orthopedic surgery as a medical specialty.

Brandon enrolled in ODASIS as a freshman and describes the program as the best support system he had in college. He attributes his academic success as a pre-med student to the advisement, tutoring and supplemental instruction he received through ODASIS that molded his study skills and constructed a path for him to gain admission to medical school. Notably, Brandon is one of 8 students in the Access Med Phase II 2014-2015 cohort; Access Med Phase II is part of the Access Med program through ODASIS which allows selected students to take classes at Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School during their senior year of university. Upon successful completion of Phase II, students automatically matriculate into Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School following graduation from university. Brandon's involvement in the program demonstrates his passion for learning and drive to succeed.

In addition to academics, he has maintained a balanced school life at Rutgers- exemplified by his roles serving on the Planning Committee for the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students and as the Parliamentarian for the United Black Council. Brandon is also a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society- Epsilon Mu chapter.

Brandon will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences and will be attending Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School this fall.

Rutgers University School of Arts & Sciences New Brunswick

*112 award recipients in total

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ziyodakhon Abdujabborova
Elizabeth Adekunle
Sara Alkhalili
Teresa Alston
Rawan Badreldeen
Sharina Brooks
Anthony Covington
Sarah Elzayat
Haley Encarnacion
Alnida Espinosa
Christopher Etienne
Shanequa Evans
Gabrielle Farquharson
Laurena Fasllia
Licelot Gonzalez
Jemillah Goodman
Maria Hernandez
Dolly Hilario
Amanda Irazabal
Chelsea Jeskie

Oumou Keita⁺
Naseer Khan
Joseph Mankowski
Samantha Martin
Atahya Mcknight
Diego Melendez
Jaweerya Mohammad
Jordanna Oliveira
Mihirkumar Patel
Jaykumar Patel
Perla Payan
Natasha Payano
Ana Catari Pereira
Edward Quiceno
Brandon Roberson⁺
Louis Rocha
Shyrley Rodriguez
Rebeca Saborit
Aya Sakar
Jennifer Sanders

Nicholas Seenath
Aman Sheth
Solangel Troncoso

Stanley Tuche
Veronica Vargas
Carla Volpe

+ Student is a participant in Rutgers University ODASIS

Academic Achievement

Lashawn Adams
Nathali Arias
Gabiella Asiedu
Max Bracero
Tamara Breskic
Valeria Carchi
Rosa De La Cruz
Anatoly Doubrovny
Jadaysia Durant

Wendy Flores
Kason Jackson
Ebru Kilic
Loucadia Lett
Jessica Maldonado
Tanisha Mckinnon
Gamal Musleh
Jessica Ortega
Dilruba Rahman

Sebastian Rivadeneira
Jennifer Rodriguez
Jerry Sanchez
William To
Syeda Uddin
Briana West
Thai Win

Outstanding Achievement

Anthony Covington

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Anthony Covington

Hailing from Bordentown, Mr. Anthony Covington, Class of 2015, is a graduate of Bordentown Regional High School. He is majoring in Supply Chain and Marketing Science and minoring in Political Science. Mr. Covington is on the Rutgers University Board of Trustees as the *Student Charter Trustee*. He has persistently aimed high and has been on the Dean's List each semester, while also serving as an Emergency Service Officer for the Rutgers University Emergency Services. His seat on the board of trustees comes as a result of his service on the Rutgers University Student Association (RUSA), the University Senate, the United Black Council and the Educational Opportunity Program Student Association (EOPSA). Last summer, Mr. Covington interned with Governor Christie, as well as at the White House. His major interests lie in business and political science and it is certain great things are ahead of him. He will be working as an Analyst with Deloitte in the strategy and management consulting department after graduation.

Rutgers University School of Engineering

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Wei Chen
Aakash Shah

Academic Achievement

Amgad Armanus
Jerome Frederick

Khanh Ho
Chunkai Liao

Hoaitu Nguyen

Outstanding Achievement

Jessica Cruz

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Jessica Cruz**

Jessica Cruz will be graduating in May 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. Her hometown is Paterson, New Jersey and she graduated from the STEM Academy at John F. Kennedy High School. Jessica has been very active within the School of Engineering. She has been an executive board member for the Society of Hispanic Engineers (SHE) at Rutgers for the majority of her college career. Currently, Jessica is the President of SHE. Through her role as President she is able to help other minority students and give back to the community which is a passion of hers. She has also had a role as a mentor for robotics students through her cooperative learning experience at Johnson & Johnson. Once Jessica graduates she will be a part of the Engineering Verizon Leadership Development Program. She also plans to stay active in SHE and continue her outreach efforts in support of the next wave of students who follow her.

Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Deepa Ahmed
Sabedo Argueta

Jose E. Grullon
Victor A. Hernandez

Arturo D. Hernandez
Christina Trinh

Academic Achievement

Cornelius Asare
Esther Exantus

Helen Lopez
Aneta Sokolowska

Jose Toribio

Outstanding Achievement

Daniel Mervil

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Sabedo Argueta**

Sabedo Argueta received an associate's degree in Business Administration from Hudson County Community College in 2011. He then transferred to Rutgers University where he obtained a

Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Business Economics with a minor in professional outreach and development. For the years 2012 and 2013, Sabedo made the Dean's List.

Sabedo completed an internship at the New Brunswick Community Farmer's Market. He is the president and founder of A.K.A. Education which stands for "Also Known As Education" (visit www.akaeducation.org for more information). The organization's goal is to educate residents of low-income communities so they can live more productive, prosperous, and fulfilled lives. He was the recipient of the 2014 EOF Professional Association of New Jersey's EOF Circle of Influence Award for his work with A.K.A. Sabedo is committed to assisting English as a Second Language (ESL) parents and children with learning how to read and write in English. Sabedo's entrepreneurship is currently focused on establishing a community run urban farm in New Brunswick that will produce organically grown produce for the local residents.

Rutgers University School of Health Related Professions

***3 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Julie Eustis

Academic Achievement

Victoria Delgado

Mina Fahmy

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Julie Eustis

Among its 2015 graduating class, Rutgers School of Health Related Professions - EOF is proud to highlight Ms. Julie Eustis of the allied dental program. Julie received her Associate Degree in Dental Hygiene in January of 2015.

Julie is the first in her immediate family to earn a post-secondary degree. An excellent student, she has maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout college. Julie shared, "Neither of my parents nor the majority of the adults in my family have graduated from college. And I've seen firsthand the difficulties that come along without having a degree."

Julie enjoys helping others understand the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. Upon graduation, Julie will apply to the Bachelor of Science degree program in Allied Dental Education in an effort to provide herself with additional opportunities. She states, "I want to succeed and go as far as I can with my education so that I am better equipped to enter a profession that will be rewarding while also providing financial stability."

Rutgers University School of Nursing

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Acia Robertson

Academic Achievement

Erika Clerjuste

Crismer Gonzalez

Melanie Mendoza

Amirah White

Outstanding Achievement

Hedolis Jaquez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Acia Robertson

Acia Robertson will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in May 2015. Having earned a 3.55 GPA and Dean's List status for 5 semesters, she is a member of the Rutgers University Honors College. Acia has served as the Public Relations officer for the Nurse Science Club as well as Recording Secretary for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated . She worked for the School of Nursing-EOF Summer Readiness Program as Renewal Program Coordinator and Summer Program Coordinator. She is also Vice President of the Inter-fraternity Sorority Council. She was a presenter on the topic of “*Prenatal Care Research*” at Undergraduate Research Day and has volunteered abroad in Managua, Nicaragua where she helped install a solar panel suitcase at an impoverished maternity clinic.

Acia also volunteered with a group of faculty and nursing students to provide healthcare and education in Salvador, Brazil. As one of many health promotion efforts, she did a presentation on “*Health Initiatives to Malnourished Children and those suffering from HIV/AIDS*”. Her other volunteer efforts include 40 hours of local community service at Mountainside Hospital and University Medical Center in Hackensack, New Jersey.

Acia has received numerous scholarships including the *Samuel and Marcella Geltman Scholarship*, the Concerned Black Nurses of Newark Scholarship and the Mid State Black Nurses Association Scholarship. Ms. Robertson’s future plans include working as an RN in the Intensive Care Unit. She intends to pursue further education to become a nurse anesthetist.

Saint Peter’s University

***10 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ricardo DeJesus

Grishma Patel

Merry Jane Pozo

Khemraj Sookdeo

Academic Achievement

Caroline Arreaga

Jonathan Cando

Tamara Encalada

Naica Joseph

Marichka Milord

Angel Munoz

Outstanding Achievement

Naica Joseph

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Marichka Milord

Marichka Milord, a graduate of Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy in Elizabeth, New Jersey, will receive her bachelor's degree from Saint Peter's University with honors this upcoming May 2015. She will be graduating with a double major in Political Science and Communication with a cumulative grade point average of 3.19 and a major grade point average of 3.5.

From humble beginnings, Marichka was destined for greatness. She entered into Saint Peter's University struggling with homelessness, yet despite the odds, it did not hinder her yearning for a quality education. Her academic excellence and hard work proved successful with her induction into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society her sophomore year.

Marichka has been very involved within the Saint Peter's University community. She is a member of various student-run organizations on campus, including the Haitian Students' Association, the English Club, the Black Action Club, and the Social Justice Club.

After graduating from college, Marichka will pursue her masters in development studies and film and TV production. Eventually, Marichka would like return to her home country of Haiti and give back to her community. She would like to make films and other programs that would help shed a positive light on the country, and promote the culture so that others can respect and grow to have appreciation for it. Marichka is a true statement of what hard work, perseverance, and resilience can accomplish.

Salem Community College

***4 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Kristin Holder

Academic Achievement

Diondra Ellis

Alexis Holmes

Outstanding Achievement

Megan Kaczynski

Seton Hall University

***34 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Nestor Almeida
Nicholas Corrochano
Lauren Dean
Helen Garcia
Sanah Gohar
Alyssa Kimbrough

Kathryn Maglione
Josefine Pena
Emy Quispe
Gabriela Redhead
Ryan-Lynn Smentkowski
Giselle Villalta

Eline Volcy
Jade Wells-Porrmann
Tyrone Wheeler
Aia Yousef

Academic Achievement

Maurielle Counts
Jomara Pena

Outstanding Achievement

Maurielle Counts

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ryan-Lynn Smentkowski

A graduate of Saint John Vianney High School, Ryan-Lynn Smentkowski has been an asset to the Educational Opportunity Program from day one. Her favorite past-time or outside interests are cheerleading and volunteering. As she has stated, “cheerleading has been a part of her life since the age of five.” She has assisted the residents of Newark via her volunteer activities through various food banks, as well as working with the cheerleaders at University High School. Ryan-Lynn also coached two all-star cheerleading teams.

Ryan-Lynn has been on the Dean’s List every semester as well as inducted into two (2) honor societies (Kappa Delta Pi and Epsilon Omega Psi). It is important to note that Ryan-Lynn has accomplished this while dealing with some major family health issues faced by her mother and grandmother.

Ryan-Lynn is also an ambassador for the Seton Hall Education Department. After she graduates with her B.S.E. in Elementary Education and Special Education, she plans to pursue her master’s degree in Speech Pathology.

Seton Hall University Pre-Medical Pre-Dental Plus Program

***5 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Ivonne Martinez
Ahmed Osman
Kirsten Simmons

Academic Achievement

Zhane Bell

Outstanding Achievement

Atiya Drayton

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight**Ahmed Osman**

Ahmed Osman is scheduled to graduate in May 2015 with his bachelor's degree in biology from Seton Hall University. Ahmed came to Seton Hall University through the EOF Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program (PMPDPP) and is a proud graduate of Somerville High School. Prior to attending Somerville High School, Ahmed grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey which he attributes to his motivation to become successful. Ahmed came to Seton Hall with a desire to become a dentist. During his undergraduate career, Ahmed was able to become involved with cancer research where his work involved finding a way to target quadruplex DNA in Leukemia tumors. Ahmed was also selected to serve as a teaching assistant for organic chemistry during his senior year. Ahmed also participated in the Gateway to Dentistry program at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, which is a program that allows prospective students to become further exposed to the field dentistry.

Since his freshman year, Ahmed has continued to maintain a GPA that has allowed him to remain on the Dean's List every semester. Through the assistance of the PMPDPP, Ahmed is now poised to graduate from Seton Hall this May and has been accepted to numerous dental schools throughout the country. Some of the programs include: Temple University School of Dental Medicine, Rutgers University School of Dental Medicine, Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine, and Columbia University College of Dental Medicine. Upon completion of dental school, it is Ahmed's goal to continue to work and help those less fortunate and to give back to both his community and his EOF family.

Stevens Institute of Technology
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***4 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Bryan Bonilla

Academic Achievement

Jeffrey Matos

Bryan Vianco

Outstanding Achievement

Madeleine Velez

EOF Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Madeleine Velez

Madeleine Velez a graduate of North Arlington High school in North Arlington, New Jersey will graduate in May 2015 with a degree in Engineering Management from Stevens Institute of Technology.

During her enrollment at Stevens which she describes as the best five years of her life, she had the opportunity to hold various leadership positions in both local and national organizations that helped mold her into the person she is today. These positions included: Corporate Relations Officer and President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)– Stevens chapter, Vice President and President of the Latin American Association (LAA), Publicity Chair for the Ethnic Students Council, Orientation Leader, Student Ambassador and Diversity Ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, three time Dean's List, Stevens Technical Enrichment Program Advisory Board member, Summer Program Resident Director/Tutor Counselor, member of Gear and Triangle Honor Society and Khoda Senior Honor Society. In addition to these activities, she had the opportunity to hold three different cooperative education positions in Movado Group Inc. and one with Unilever in Chicago. All of these experiences have helped Madeleine recognize what her passion is and led her to accept an employment offer from L'Oréal in its manufacturing and operations development rotational program.

Madeleine expressed that she is extremely sad to be leaving her EOF family, especially her amazing EOF director Ms. Berkley, but is also excited to start this new phase of her life. She hopes to be able to come back regularly to help other EOF students.

Stockton University

***19 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Briana Bailey
Taryn Bouer
Sara Brogan
Allison Cibenko

Ciera Crawford
Jasmine Cruz
Gail DeShields
Nicolette Franchetti

Megan Kelly
Heidi Kim
Tayyaba Noreen
Yarizell Vazquez

Academic Achievement

Becky Batista
Karoll Candelaria

Natasha Garlic
Zachary Pecora

Michelle Puerta
Ivory Williams

Outstanding Achievement

Manar Hussein

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Manar Hussein

Manar Hussein has been nominated by Stockton University as the recipient of the spring 2015 EOF Outstanding Achievement Award. Manar is a resident of Mays Landing where she graduated from Oakcrest High School.

Manar will complete her bachelor's degree this spring with a major in Literature and minor in Africana Studies. Her student leadership skills are well known on campus and she was awarded a Student Leader of the Year award in 2012. The list of memberships and offices she has held include the Student Senate, President of the Unified Black Students Society, NAACP, African Student Organization, Asian Student Association, Multi-cultural Connect and Muslim Student Association. She is a role model for many Muslim students on campus who look to her for guidance in issues they may have.

In addition to her out of classroom campus involvement, Manar has maintained her academic studies and been named to the Dean's list for several semesters. Manar advises all students to reflect on the uses of "power, poetry and peace." She believes students first need to understand politics and the power structure and second learn how to express themselves through writing and the arts. "There's power in writing," she said. Her aim is peace: "After we vent creatively, we have to come up with what we're going to do next for society. Activism is not just an event of marching - it's daily, working to right wrongs. And that has a ripple effect."

Union County College

***15 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Bekhruz Abduholikov
Sabrina DaCruz
Martha Devia

Andres Garcia
Kenya Grijalva
Hector Mendoza

William Sorto

Academic Achievement

Nipu Begum
Fabiana Escandon

Sonnie Kollie
Modjina Ovil

Miguel Patino

Outstanding Achievement

Alexander Vega

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Modjina Ovil

Modjina Ovil is a resident of Union, New Jersey and graduated from Union High School in 2012. She is graduating in May 2015 with a major in Liberal Studies. Modjina is President and Treasurer of the EOF Women's Leadership Group and also President of the Student Volunteer

Organization. In addition, she works as an EOF Peer Tutor. Last summer, she attended the NEW Leadership New Jersey residential program at Rutgers University. Modjina is also a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. She plans to transfer to Rider University where she will major in Public Relations.

Warren County Community College

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Imari Acevedo
Penelope Griffin

Outstanding Achievement

Penelope Griffin

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Penelope Griffin

Penelope Griffin is a Social Science major at Warren County Community College and will graduate in May 2015 with an associate's degree. She is a proud member of the EOF Club, Phi Theta Kappa, and President of both the Student Government Association and S.W.I.M. (Successful Women in Motion)—an on campus network for women to achieve perspective on their career goals by developing resources, unity, mentorship, and community outreach. Originally from Newark, New Jersey, Penelope served two terms in AmeriCorps VISTA and has performed other community outreach projects. While at Warren County Community College, she has successfully been trained and interned as a domestic violence and sexual assault advocate. She is currently employed as a Case Worker for the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County. In addition, she is an alumnus of the New Leadership New Jersey program. Her future academic career goals include obtaining a bachelor's degree in social science and master's and doctorate degrees in public service leadership. Penelope's career plans include assisting in changing the criteria of programs for families financially at risk, creating new programs and policies in social services, and starting a non-profit housing program for working families.

William Paterson University

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement

Giselle Fontalvo
Annindia Maxwell

Tatiana Medina
Megan Payton

Cierra Stowe

Academic Achievement

Ruben Acosta

Glangel DeLaHoz

Floribel Ferreira

Dania JeanCharles

Michelle Rodriguez

Joseph Rossano

Outstanding Achievement

Mark Travis Rivera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Mark Travis Rivera

Mark Travis Rivera is an award-winning activist, choreographer and writer. Raised in Paterson, New Jersey, Mark learned to overcome the struggles that stem from being Latino, gay, feminine and disabled. He learned to embrace every aspect of his identity, which allows him to live a purpose-driven life.

Mark graduated from William Paterson University (WPU) on January 25, 2015 with a major in Women's & Gender Studies and a minor in Public Relations. He is a member of Iota Iota Iota: a National Honor Society for Women's & Genders Studies. He was also inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. In 2013, Mark received the WPU Student Government Association's "Lifetime Achievement Award." He is also a recipient of the Campus Pride Voice & Action Award. Mark has served as the Chairperson of the Youth Community Advisory Board for Project: Living Out Loud. He has served as a trainer for the Passaic County Women's Center.

An innovative dancer, Mr. Rivera established an integrated dance company, Marked Dance Project, for dancers with and without disabilities in the U.S. He has been a featured speaker at Harvard University, NYU, MIT and San Francisco State University. He is a published poet and journalist, featured in numerous local and national publications and media outlets. His poem, "*Love Letters to Myself (excerpts)*" was recently published in a new anthology, "Between: New Gay Poetry." He was the keynote speaker for the 2014 Annual Induction Ceremony of Chi Alpha Epsilon-Beta Zeta Chapter of William Paterson University.